US PTO Customer No.: 25280 Inventor(s): Walsh, Robert

Case No.: 5352

Express Mail Label No.: EV 229673366 US

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## WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An airbag, comprising:

a substantially closed, inflatable structure having a first anchor point and an opposing second anchor point, said structure having plural slits formed therein, said slits seamed to be impermeable to an inflation medium; and

a fill nozzle carried by said tubular structure, said inflatable structure expanding when opposing forces are applied to said first and second anchor points and contracting when said inflatable structure is inflated.

- 2. The airbag as recited in claim 1, wherein said first and said second anchor points define a line and wherein said slits are oriented substantially perpendicular to said line.
- 3. The airbag as recited in claim 1, wherein said slits are arranged in at least one row.
- 4. The airbag as recited in claim 1, wherein said slits are arranged in plural rows and each row of slits of said plural rows of slits is offset from an adjacent row of slits.
- 5. The airbag as recited in claim 4, wherein said slits are longer than the distance between said plural rows.
  - 6. An airbag, comprising:

a panel having air passages formed therein and a bottom edge;

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a substantially closed inflatable structure carried by said bottom edge of said panel and having a first anchor point and an opposing second anchor point, said inflatable structure having plural slits formed therein, said plural slits being seamed to be impermeable to an inflation medium; and

a fill nozzle in fluid communication with said air passages of said panel and said tubular structure, said inflatable structure expanding when opposing forces are applied to said first and said second anchor points and contracting when said inflatable structure is inflated.

- 7. The airbag as recited in claim 6, wherein said first and said second anchor points define a line and wherein said slits are oriented substantially perpendicular to said line.
- 8. The airbag as recited in claim 6, wherein said plural slits are arranged in at least one row.
- 9. The airbag as recited in claim 6, wherein said plural slits are arranged in plural rows and each row of slits of said plural rows of slits is offset from an adjacent row of slits.
- 10. The airbag as recited in claim 9, wherein said plural slits are arranged in plural rows and wherein each slit of said plural slits is longer than the distance between said plural rows.